



INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA-UAW

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February 24, 2009

To: Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and Members of the Labor and
Public Employees Committee

From: Robert Madore, Director
Beverley Brakeman, Community Action Program Representative

Re: SB 365 AAC Captive Audience Meetings - Support

My name is Beverley Brakeman and I am here on behalf of our Director Robert Madore to urge your support of SB 365 AAC Captive Audience Meetings.

This bill is an important way for Connecticut to show its support of workers by prohibiting employers from coercing and threatening them into silence - effectively stripping them of their hard earned workplace rights and opportunities.

Several years ago, the UAW was involved in helping a group of workers from Chef Solutions in East Haven, CT to form a union. Two union elections were held as the result of a majority of workers signing cards indicating they wanted to form a union. During both elections there were probably over 20 unfair labor practice violations filed with the National Labor Relations Board by the UAW having to do with captive audience meetings.

These union busting meetings were mandated for all employees during the organizing drive. Any employees who stood up to speak up or object were thrown out and further threatened with job loss. Unfortunately, due to the intensity of these meetings, employees became so frightened about losing their jobs that despite the majority of cards signed, the elections were lost.

A union election is unlike elections most people are used to. The employer has 24 hour 7 day per week access to the "voters" giving themselves the upper hand in steering the employees against the union through fear tactics and intimidation.

The UAW strongly supports legislation that would allow all workers to choose freely without intimidation and retaliation to form a union. This bill we believe will level the playing field for employees wishing to form a union.

Please show your support for Connecticut's workers and pass this bill. Thank you.

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